

EMAIL FOR ACCOUNTABILITY COORDINATORS

November 22, 2002

To: Selected County and District Accountability Coordinators
Selected Charter School Accountability Coordinators

From: William L. Padia, Director
Policy and Evaluation Division

Subject: **School Type Designations for the 2002 API Base and 2003 API Growth**
Ref: PED-EPIC-02-06

The purpose of this E-mail is to notify you of the standard definitions for school type (elementary, middle, and high) used for purposes of reporting the Academic Performance Index (API) for the 2002-2003 API reporting cycle. The 2002-2003 API reporting cycle includes the 2002 API Base, which will be reported in February 2003, and the 2003 API Growth, which will be reported in the fall of 2003.

Last year, the Educational Planning and Information Center (EPIC) of the California Department of Education (CDE) developed standard criteria for defining school type to ensure the credibility of programs linked to the API and to maintain the integrity of the accountability system. These same criteria are being used again this year to assign a school type for the 2002-2003 API reporting cycle. Schools in the main API accountability system and schools in the Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM) that opt into the main API system will be assigned a school type using these criteria.

Our records show that ALL SCHOOLS IN YOUR DISTRICT have been assigned a 2002-2003 API school type that is the same as the previous API cycle school type. NO ACTION IS NECESSARY ON YOUR PART.

A detailed description of the criteria for determining school type for the 2002-2003 API is located on the CDE web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/psaa/api>. A school's API school type may differ from its county-district-school (CDS) code school type, commonly referred to as the "school ownership code."

If you have further questions about the criteria or process for assigning school type for API purposes, contact the Educational Planning and Information Center at epic@cde.ca.gov or by phone at 916-319-0863.

BP:jv